

Dear Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

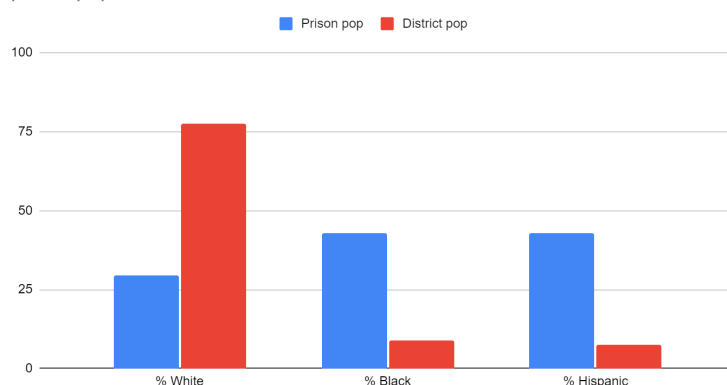
My name is Dani Zanuttini-Frank I am a resident of New Haven and am testifying to communicate my strong support for Connecticut SB 753, *An Act Concerning the Counting of Incarcerated Persons for the Purpose of Determining Legislative Districts*.

I'm a committed voter in Connecticut. I take great pride in my civic engagement and in encouraging that of my community members. As such, it is very important to me that every resident of Connecticut have equal representation in legislature, particularly those who are already the most politically marginalized.

Stopping the practice of counting incarcerated people as residents of the districts in which their correctional facilities are located is imperative to increasing the representativeness of Connecticut's General Assembly. The counting of incarcerated persons, the vast majority of whom cannot vote, as members of the legislative districts in which their carceral facilities are located affords inappropriate electoral power to said districts. Moreover, incarcerated persons who can vote must do so in the districts where they lived prior to incarceration. The status quo inaccurately invests legislative authority and exacerbates racial inequities in government, given that Connecticut districts housing correctional facilities have a far higher proportion of white voters than compared to local incarcerated populations.

As the graph to the right shows, there is a stark discrepancy between the racial makeup of the populations in districts containing prisons (whose legislative representation is artificially inflated) and the incarcerated populations that are being miscounted. This is an issue that needs to be remedied through the passage of this bill. Washington, Delaware, Nevada, California, Maryland and New York have all enacted legislation enabling the counting of incarcerated people at their last pre-incarceration residence.

Racial makeup of prison population vs. district of prisons weighted by prison population



Every resident of Connecticut deserves equal representation in the state legislature. I ask the committee to consider passing S.B. 753 to enshrine that same principle in law.

Sincerely,
Dani Zanuttini-Frank
New Haven, CT